

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Prior Application: K. YANASE et al  
Serial No. 09/645,543  
Filed: August 25, 2000

Group Art Unit: 2177  
Examiner: S. Pannala  
For: DATABASE PROCESSING SYSTEM, METHOD,  
PROGRAM AND PROGRAM STORAGE DEVICE

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

February 24, 2004

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above application  
as follows.